

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Function of Politicla Officers and the Issuance
of Orders in the Soviet Army

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The mission of the political officer is to assure the loyalty and political
support of troops toward the commander and to assist the commanding officer
of the unit in political indoctrination of the troops. 50X1

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He is known as the assistant commander for politics. In a
unit the commanding officer, himself, is very definitely the commanding
officer. The political officer is subordinate to him. It was always so,
even during World War II. For several years since World War II the political
officers have not been at full strength, that is, many units were lacking a
political officer. The full reactivation of the political officer system is
now under way. 50X1

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the
operation order is published in complete detail and no interpretation is allowed
at company level. The company commander is told not only what he is to do,
but how he is to do it in some detail, all contained in the ten to fourteen
paragraph operation order. However, in those rare instances where something
might happen, the political officer would render a report to the
political officer of the next higher headquarters, who in turn would refer the
matter to the commanding officer of that headquarters for action. At least a
court martial or probably an execution would result from insubordination
by a company commander. 50X1

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